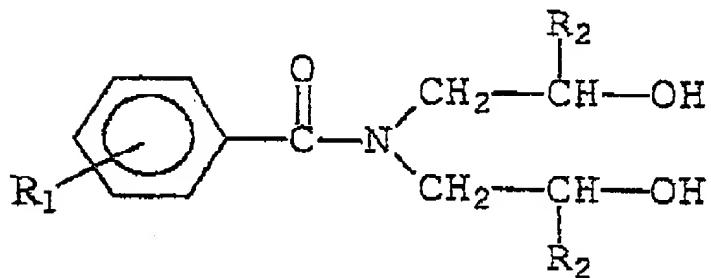


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IN THE CLAIMS

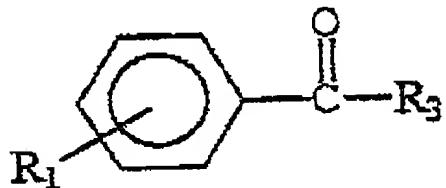
1-14. (cancelled)

15. A method of utilizing a β -hydroxyalkylamide having the general formula:

wherein R₁ is H or a linear or branched C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl and R₂ is a linear or branched C₁ to C₅ alkyl to cross-link the polymer.

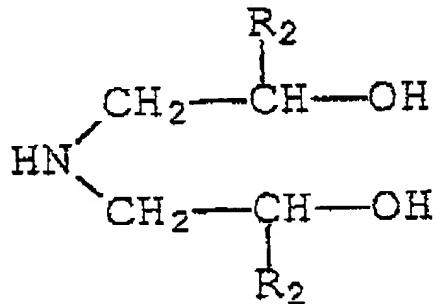
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16. The method according to claim 15 wherein the β -hydroxyalkylamide is made from a process comprising reacting a carboxylic acid derivative having the general Formula II:



II

C
where R_3 is halogen or OR_4 , whereby R_4 stands for a linear C_1 to C_5 alkyl, with an alkanol amine having the general Formula III:



III

and where R_1 and R_2 are defined as indicated above.

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- CX
v
17. The method according to claim 15, comprising mixing the β -hydroxyalkylamide with additional β -hydroxyalkylamides and/or epoxies as cross-linkers.